



CAREERS NEWSLETTER 10 SEPTEMBER, 2026



INVITATION TO JOIN JOB JUMP

We warmly encourage all **parents and students** to register for **Job Jump**, an excellent careers platform that supports young people as they explore future pathways.

Job Jump provides:

Up-to-date information on tertiary study options, ATARs, apprenticeships, and TAFE pathways.

Tools to create a resume, helping students present their strengths professionally.

Customised news alerts so families stay informed about important deadlines and opportunities.

Both parents and students can benefit from clear guidance and timely updates as they plan— whether that's choosing senior subjects, exploring university courses, or considering vocational training.

To register, simply visit:

<https://www.jobjump.com.au/register> and visit Careers 2026 on Canvas to access sign up details.

We hope you find Job Jump a valuable resource in supporting informed and confident career decision-making.

Disclaimer – all information is printed in good faith

It is the responsibility of the student to confirm all details with the appropriate institution.



To contact Ms. Hall please email chall@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au or call 9414 4733.

Events

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Macquarie [EX]plore Science Extension Conference

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 14, 2026

Macquarie University is hosting a full-day conference showcasing the research of Year 12 HSC Science Extension students Monday 14 September.

Designed as an authentic research experience, the event brings together school students, undergraduates and PhD researchers to share a passion for science through presentations, posters, networking opportunities and Faculty of Science lab tours. Prizes will be awarded for outstanding presentations.

Year 12 students can register independently and will present their work at the conference (applications close 21 August), while Year 10 and 11 students must be registered by a teacher.

[Find out more](#)

ADF Indigenous Pathways Virtual Information Session

Organisation: Australian Defence Force

Location: Online

Date: September 14, 2026

Join the thousands of Australian Defence Force members who enjoy financial security, rewarding work and personal development in jobs that proudly represent their communities.

Join us for a virtual info session to learn about Indigenous opportunities in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

Spaces are limited, so register ASAP!

[Find out more](#)

UOW Spotlight on Social Work

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: University of Wollongong, Wollongong Campus

Date: September 15, 2026

Join us for an inspiring 90-minute evening event to explore the world of social work and discover how this dynamic profession creates meaningful impact across diverse settings. Connect with UOW academics and current students as they share their experiences, discuss the skills and knowledge you will gain throughout the degree, and highlight the opportunities available after graduation. Through interactive activities and real-world examples, you will gain insight into the challenges, rewards and possibilities of a career dedicated to empowering people and driving positive social change. At UOW, social work is more than a profession. It's a pathway to making a difference.

[Find out more](#)

CDW Studios Online Information Session

Organisation: CDW Studios

Location: Online

Date: September 16, 2026

Discover our industry-recognised pathway into the entertainment design industry!



This free online session is designed for anyone interested in building a creative career in the entertainment design industry, becoming a professional artist for games, movies, animation and VFX.

[Find out more](#)

ADF Sydney Officer & Management Careers Information Session

Organisation: Australian Defence Force

Location: Parramatta ADF Careers Centre

Date: September 16, 2026

We're always on the lookout for people with ambition and potential to lead and manage Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel in fields including (but not limited to) aviation, engineering, healthcare and combat.

As an Officer in the ADF you will have the opportunity to see more of Australia-and the world-make friends for life and experience a unique culture of teamwork, adventure and fitness.

Join us for an info session to hear from current serving members about what it takes to become an Officer in the ADF.

It is highly recommended you book as soon as possible to avoid missing out as places are strictly limited!

Please arrive no later than 15 minutes early to allow time for check-in. Due to building access restrictions, late arrivals will not be permitted entry after the session begins.

[Find out more](#)

Prepare for the future of work with Sydney's Bachelor of Arts – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 16, 2026

Discover how the Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney can set you up for success. Learn how this flexible degree equips you with the critical thinking, creativity and communication skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing workforce. Explore your interests, build in-demand capabilities, and prepare for a future full of opportunities in arts and social sciences.

[Find out more](#)

Sydney College of the Arts Portfolio Evening Online for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: September 16, 2026

Don't miss the opportunity to join us at the Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) Portfolio Evening, online, for tailored feedback and valuable insights to elevate your portfolio to support your application.

Your portfolio is a key part of your application to study a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the University of Sydney.

As part of the Portfolio Evening, you'll be able to speak with our experienced staff to:

- gain personalised, one-on-one feedback and advice on your current portfolio and how to enhance your submission from our academic staff
- receive information about our degrees, specialised facilities, and student opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

[Find out more](#)

Sydney College of the Arts Portfolio Evening for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney



Location: University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus

Date: September 16, 2026

Don't miss this opportunity to join us at the Sydney College of the Arts (SCA) Portfolio Evening, in-person, for tailored feedback and valuable insights to elevate your portfolio to support your application.

Your portfolio is a key part of your application to study a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the University of Sydney.

As part of the Portfolio Evening, you'll be able to speak with our experienced staff to:

- gain personalised, one-on-one feedback and advice on your current portfolio and how to enhance your submission from our academic staff, and
- receive information about our degrees, specialised facilities, and student opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

[Find out more](#)

Astronomy Open Night by Macquarie University

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 19, 2026

Sydney's most spectacular night of science and stargazing returns this September. Whether you're a lifelong astronomy enthusiast or simply curious about the universe, Astronomy Open Night offers an unforgettable evening for all ages.

Discover exciting new highlights, including The Big Cosmic Q&A, where you can put your questions to our experts, and So You Like Science – What Now?, a special session for students planning their next steps after high school. You can also explore our new experimental short film festival, Stories Across Worlds, featuring works from the Archival Futures Collective. Register ASAP as tickets sell out fast!

[Find out more](#)

UNSW Aviation Open Day 2026

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: UNSW Aviation Flying Operations Unit, Bankstown Airport

Date: September 19, 2026

Are you passionate about flying or curious about a career in aviation? Join UNSW for an unforgettable experience at their Aviation Open Day, held at the state-of-the-art Bankstown Airport flight training facility.

What to expect:

- Explore the fleet of Diamond DA-40 and Piper Seminole PA44 aircraft up close
- Experience cutting-edge flight simulators
- Chat with expert instructors and current students
- Tour the facilities and get a feel for life at UNSW Aviation
- Ask anything - UNSW is here to help you navigate your aviation journey

Whether you're dreaming of becoming a pilot or just want to learn more about aviation, this is your chance to get inspired and informed.

[Find out more](#)

Sydney Design School Open Day

Organisation: Sydney Design School

Location: Sydney Design School

Date: September 19, 2026

Step inside our world of design and get to know us. Explore our studios, check out amazing student work, meet the inspiring team, get creative making a mood board.



[Find out more](#)

FUTURE EVENTS

UOW Spotlight on Journalism

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: University of Wollongong, Wollongong Campus

Date: September 21, 2026

Join us for an immersive 90-minute evening to consider your passion for storytelling. Find out how students who study at UOW become skilful, confident journalists ready to work across written, audio, and visual media.

Hear directly from current students and UOW academics, who will walk you through what a Journalism Major within the Bachelor of Communication and Media degree looks like and the career pathways available to you.

A tour through our newsroom, video production, and radio studios will also give you a direct insight into UOW's journalism major.

[Find out more](#)

Coding With Care: The Power of Compassion in the Classroom – Discover Lecture Series with Macquarie

Organisation: Macquarie University

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus

Date: September 22, 2026

When people think about programming, compassion is not one of the first words that comes to mind. Yet for Lecturer Charanya Ramakrishnan, it has become the most powerful tool in her teaching practices.

Charanya will share how she has integrated care and empathy into introductory computing units, a space often defined by logic and precision rather than human connection. By embedding a deeper level of care and empathy into her practice, Charanya creates classrooms where students feel supported, valued, and confident to take risks.

This talk will explore how small, intentional changes can significantly impact not only student success but also the establishment of a culture of trust and belonging within classrooms.

This event is part of Macquarie's [Discover Lecture Series](#), monthly talks suitable for ages 10 and up that offer inspiring insights and a glimpse into the technological advancements shaping our future.

[Find out more](#)

Discover Sport & Exercise at UTS

Organisation: University of Technology Sydney

Location: University of Technology Sydney, Moore Park Campus

Date: September 22, 2026

Join us for an exclusive evening at the UTS Moore Park campus and discover where a degree in sport and exercise can take you.

Hear from leading academics and current students, explore exciting study pathways and career opportunities, and experience the cutting-edge facilities shaping the next generation of sport professionals.

Whether you're interested in performance, health, or the science behind sport, this is your chance to see what's possible. Places are limited, so secure your spot early.

[Find out more](#)



UOW Spotlight on Music and Performance

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: University of Wollongong, Wollongong Campus

Date: September 22, 2026

Join us for an immersive 90-minute evening to consider your passion in theatre or music. Find out how students who study at UOW become skillful, confident and creative artists ready to work in the music and performing arts industries.

Hear directly from current students and UOW academics, who will walk you through what a Bachelor of Creative Arts degree looks like and the career pathways available to you.

Special snippets of performances by current students will also give you a direct insight to UOW's theatre and music programs.

[Find out more](#)

UNSW Careers 2040: STEM Careers Reimagined

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

Date: September 23, 2026

From climate resilience and clean energy to AI, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing, tomorrow's challenges need people who can think across disciplines and create solutions in unexpected ways.

Join leading scientists, engineers and industry professionals as they share how curiosity, lifelong learning and a willingness to embrace new challenges have shaped their careers in unexpected ways. Through an inspiring keynote, interactive panel discussion and networking session, you'll hear firsthand how postgraduate study can support career progression, professional growth and new opportunities.

Whether you're looking to broaden your expertise, explore emerging industries or rethink what's possible in your career, leave inspired by the opportunities shaping the future of STEM.

[Find out more](#)

Moving to Canberra and Living on Campus at ANU – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: September 23, 2026

Find out what it's really like to live on campus, meet new people and make Canberra your new home.

Hear from our team about residential life, making friends, finding your feet in a new city, getting around Canberra and making the most of everything campus has to offer — from study and support to social life and everything in between.

Whether you're moving from across the country or just a few hours away, you'll get practical tips on what to expect, what to bring and how to make the most of your first year away from home.

[Find out more](#)

WSU Free Online HSC Study Sessions for Year 12 Students

Organisation: Western Sydney University

Location: Online

Date: September 28 to October 7, 2026

From Monday 28th September to Wednesday 7th October 2026, Western Sydney University will be offering a range of online study sessions to assist Year 12 students in their preparations for the HSC. These will be delivered by highly qualified senior teachers with 22 free sessions across 14 key HSC



subject areas, with sessions that included content analysis, tips and strategies, and a detailed exploration of key syllabus and curriculum areas. Students will have the opportunity to sit a practice exam and deconstruction, with feedback and advice from experts.

[Find out more](#)

Quantum Tech Camp for Year 9-12 Students and Teachers

Organisation: Sydney Quantum Academy

Location: Macquarie University, Wallumattagal Campus OR Online

Date: September 29 to October 1, 2026

Now in its fifth year, Quantum Tech Camp is a free three-day program for students in Years 9-12 who want to explore one of the world's most exciting emerging technologies.

Through interactive activities, coding and problem-solving challenges, you'll learn the fundamentals of quantum computing and experiment with concepts such as superposition, entanglement and quantum randomness. No prior knowledge of quantum physics or coding is required.

Beginners will be supported through hands-on activities, while students with coding experience can explore more advanced programming challenges using Python.

You'll also meet Australian quantum researchers and mentors, connect with like-minded students from across Australia, and discover study and career pathways in quantum technology.

In 2026 the Camp is free to attend, but spaces are limited.

SQA is committed to making this event accessible to everyone. If you require any accommodations, please let them know in advance by sending an email to: info.sqa@sydney.edu.au.

[Find out more](#)

AIM Music Theatre Audition Workshop, Sydney

Organisation: Australian Institute of Music

Location: Australian Institute of Music, Sydney Campus

Date: September 29 to September 30, 2026

If the stage is where you're headed, this is how you get there.

AIM's Sydney Music Theatre Audition Workshop is an immersive two-day experience for high school students who are serious about turning their passion into a career.

Working directly with the industry professionals who teach our Bachelor of Music Theatre, you'll build your skills, refine your repertoire, and walk away with the confidence and feedback you need to nail your audition.

[Find out more](#)

You've Received an ANU Early Offer — What Happens Next? Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: September 29, 2026

Congratulations! Your Early Offer is an exciting first step towards starting your university journey.

Join our Future Students and Admissions team for a practical session covering everything you need to know about what happens next.

We'll walk you through accepting your offer, change of preference, key dates and important next steps, as well as answer some of the common questions students and parents have at this stage.

After the presentation, there'll be plenty of time to ask your questions and get advice directly from our team, so you can feel confident about what comes next.

[Find out more](#)



UOW Creative and Performing Arts Workshops for Year 9 & 10 Students

Organisation: University of Wollongong

Location: University of Wollongong, Wollongong Campus

Date: September 30 to October 1, 2026

Following the success of our first series, the University of Wollongong (UOW) is excited to present the second instalment of our school holiday workshops, designed to ignite creativity and foster skill development among high school students.

Led by UOW academics who are experts in their respective fields, these workshops offer hands-on experiences in creative writing, performance and theatre, journalism, visual arts, and music.

These workshops aim to inspire students and strengthen their connection with the university community, providing a glimpse into the vibrant academic environment at UOW.

[Find out more](#)

ANSTO Stop Motion Animation Advanced Workshop for 10-13 year olds

Organisation: Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

Location: ANSTO Discovery Centre

Date: September 30, 2026

This workshop is designed for young animators who have already created their own stop motion movies, or who have previously attended one of our Stop Motion Animation Beginners workshops. Participants will explore more advanced animation techniques using professional style stop motion software and learn how to create smoother, more polished films. Young filmmakers will develop complex scenes, experiment with special effects and movement techniques, and discover how sound can bring their stories to life.

Learn how to:

- Create more realistic and expressive character movements
- Use advanced stop motion software and tools
- Record and edit your own audio
- Add sound effects and music
- Animate characters speaking through lip-syncing techniques
- Plan and produce longer, more detailed animations

This workshop is perfect for creative young people who are ready to challenge themselves and develop the patience, storytelling and technical skills used by professional animators.

[Find out more](#)

AIE Games & Animation Workshop Day for Years 10, 11 and 12

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Location: Various campuses

Date: September 30, 2026

AIE's Games and Animation Workshop Days are a great opportunity for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to learn about the local and international game development, 3D animation and visual effects industries.. This event will be held at AIE Campuses in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide from 10am to 3pm.

Students will get the opportunity to learn about the different pathways to get into the industry, what should be in a portfolio and will be able to get creative in practical workshops using industry-standard 3D animation and game development tools.

The sessions are run by industry professionals who have worked on blockbuster games and films. Everything is provided for you to participate in the hands-on workshops and you will be using the same software that is used in the industry.

If you are thinking about a career in the games or film industry then this is a great place to get started. Places are limited so registrations are required for this free event.



[Find out more](#)

CDW Studios Digital Art Holiday Workshop for Ages 14+ – Sydney & Online

Organisation: CDW Studios

Location: CDW Studios, Sydney Campus & Online

Date: October 1, 2026

Level up your drawing skills in a fun, interactive, full day workshop!

Participants will get an introductory insight to the industry whilst learning techniques that they can apply straight away! Perfect for beginners who wish to learn more as well as more experienced artists who want to push their work to the next level. This workshop is a fantastic starting point for those who are curious about venturing into the competitive world of visual effects and entertainment design.

Take this rare opportunity to learn from professional artists in a fun, engaging environment.

[Find out more](#)

Create for a Day at SAE Sydney

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: SAE University College, Sydney Campus

Date: October 3, 2026

This October school holidays, SAE University College Sydney is opening its doors for Create for a Day: a one-day, hands-on experience where you'll step into the studio, lab or production space and start creating.

Choose from:

- Animation
- Audio
- Computer Science
- Design
- Film
- Games
- Songwriting & Electronic Music Production
- VFX

Create for a Day lets you skip the textbooks and jump straight into building, recording, designing, coding or filming, all guided by lecturers who work in the industry.

By the end of the day, you'll walk away with your own finished project and a certificate of participation, plus a clearer idea of what studying at SAE is really like and where your skills could take you in the future.

Open to students in Years 10-12 and young creatives up to age 21.

[Find out more](#)

Apply to ANU: UAC Now Open – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: Australian National University

Location: Online

Date: October 6, 2026

Ready to apply to ANU? Join us for a quick, practical session on how to apply through the University Admissions Centre (UAC). We'll walk you through the process, key dates and what you need to know to get your application sorted.

Already completed your ANU Early Offer application? You're all set – there's no need to apply again.

[Find out more](#)



Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Bankstown Airport

Date: October 12, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.

[Find out more](#)

HSC Workshop: Visual Arts Induction, Marrickville

Organisation: Inner West Council Libraries

Location: Marrickville Library and Pavilion

Date: October 18, 2026

An essential presentation for students in Year 11 beginning the HSC Visual Arts Course in Term 4. Visual Arts teachers are also welcome!

This session unpacks the dual role students will play as both artist and critic, offering a clear understanding of what lies ahead - from developing the HSC Body of Work to preparing for the HSC Written Exam, with practical advice on how to navigate course content, Case Studies, time management in preparing for school-based assessments and external exams. This induction equips students with tools to start strong and stay on track throughout the HSC Visual Arts journey. Visual Arts teachers are welcome to attend and bring a group of students or come along for their own professional development.

BYO pens, highlighters, clipboard, notebook and water bottle. A workbook will be provided.

[Find out more](#)

Study project management at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: October 21, 2026

Project management is a versatile field. From delivering infrastructure to launching major events, project managers are the go-to people to get the job done.

Sydney's Bachelor of Project Management provides you with skills to excel in today's complex and uncertain environment. Join this webinar and hear about many reasons to study project management at Sydney.

[Find out more](#)

Why study business with Sydney? Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: October 28, 2026

Discover how our commerce degree prepares you for the future of work and a wide range of career opportunities. You will learn about the range of study areas (or majors) available – such as marketing, finance, or innovation and entrepreneurship - and the many ways in which you can combine your interests, with over 100 study areas to select from our shared pools of majors and minors.

Find out more about internships, industry-focused experiences, and global mobility opportunities on offer to our Bachelor of Commerce students.

[Find out more](#)



Yr 12 & Beyond with ADHD – Webinar for Year 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: October 29, 2026

Designed to help Year 12 students and parents navigate the transition to tertiary study or employment with practical ADHD management strategies. It offers actionable guidance on post-school options, strengths and interests, accommodations, and setting up tailored support systems.

[Find out more](#)

Explore speech pathology at Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 4, 2026

Curious about a career helping people communicate, connect, eat and swallow safely? Join our academic experts to explore the University of Sydney's Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology).

Learn about the degree structure, clinical placements, career opportunities, and what it's like to study Speech Pathology. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during a live Q&A session.

[Find out more](#)

Procrastination & ADHD – Webinar for Year 10, 11, 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: November 5, 2026

A practical session focusing on why ADHD brains procrastinate and how students in Years 10–12 can overcome executive dysfunction. Attendees will learn evidence-based study tools, time-management hacks, and task-initiation techniques.

[Find out more](#)

CSU Making It In Media Workshop for Year 9-12 Students, Bathurst

Organisation: Charles Sturt University

Location: Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Campus

Date: November 6, 2026

Are you passionate about content creation, journalism, advertising or public relations?

If you're a student in Year 9, 10, 11 or 12, join us for our free Making it in Media workshop!

Ever wondered what it's really like to host a podcast, write newsworthy articles or work in TV? In this exciting full-day workshop, you'll dive deep into the dynamic worlds of design and content creation, journalism and strategic communication.

This interactive, hands-on experience invites you to collaborate with other students and explore the diverse majors on offer when you study with Charles Sturt.

What to expect:

- Hear from our course director, leading academics and alumni and get your questions answered.
- Step into our brand-new TV studio and creative hub.
- Get a taste of what it's really like to work in media.
- Take part in practical and fun workshop sessions.

[Find out more](#)



Beginner Shakuhachi Workshop for ages 16+

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Date: November 7, 2026

If you've always wanted to try the shakuhachi, now's your chance!

Shakuhachi Master Bronwyn Kirkpatrick will present this workshop and demonstration introducing shakuhachi, the traditional Japanese bamboo flute.

The demonstration/workshop is open to anyone 16 years of age and over and no prior musical experience is necessary.

It will interest students who feel drawn to Asian music and philosophies and people who want to find out more about the shakuhachi and its tradition. It may also be of particular interest to flute and recorder students who are exploring contemporary techniques on their instruments, as many of these techniques are similar to traditional shakuhachi techniques.

The demonstration will include the history of the shakuhachi and performances of different styles of music, from Zen Buddhist to contemporary. There will also be plenty of opportunity to try it out for

yourselves! In the workshop, we will work on making sound and improving tone. We will learn to read basic Japanese notation and to play some simple Japanese folk songs.

[Find out more](#)

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Bankstown Airport

Date: November 9, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.

[Find out more](#)

Life of an agricultural scientist – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 11, 2026

Explore a future in agricultural science at the University of Sydney. Hear from one of our agricultural scientists about their career and discover our Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Honours pathway, from agribusiness and policy to sustainability and food security.

[Find out more](#)

Preparing for ATAR release: pathways to Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 18, 2026

Waiting for your ATAR? Whether you're feeling confident, unsure, or somewhere in between, join us to explore the many ways you can study at the University of Sydney.

Learn about admission pathways, entry schemes, adjustment factors, and the study options available after ATAR release so you can make informed decisions about your next steps with confidence.

[Find out more](#)



Discover nursing at the University of Sydney – Webinar for Future Students

Organisation: University of Sydney

Location: Online

Date: November 25, 2026

Ready to make a real impact? Discover undergraduate nursing degrees at the University of Sydney and explore a career dedicated to improving lives.

Learn about hands-on clinical placements, study pathways, and opportunities to work across hospitals, community health, aged care and beyond. Join us to see how nursing at Sydney can help you build a rewarding future in healthcare.

[Find out more](#)

Year 11 & Beyond with ADHD – Starting Strong in the Senior Years

Organisation: ADHD Webinars

Location: Online

Date: November 26, 2026

Focuses on setting senior students up for success as they enter their final school year and look ahead

to future pathways. This webinar for parents, senior high school students and career practitioners covers strategies for managing workload stress, building independence, and planning post-school transitions.

[Find out more](#)

SAE Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science

Organisation: SAE University College

Location: Online

Date: December 1, 2026

From software development and cyber security to cloud computing and AI, technology careers are evolving fast. At SAE's Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science, you'll explore our complete range of technology courses, including our new Information Technology qualifications launching in February 2027, alongside our established Computer Science and Cyber Security pathways.

[Find out more](#)

Basair Pilot Career Seminar, Sydney

Organisation: Basair Aviation College

Location: Bankstown Airport

Date: December 7, 2026

Do you dream of taking to the skies and achieving your wildest aviation dreams?

Attend Basair's Pilot Career Seminar and learn everything you need to know about becoming a Commercial Pilot with Australia's leading flight training organisation.

[Find out more](#)

Notre Dame Information Day for Future Students in Sydney

Organisation: University of Notre Dame Australia

Location: University of Notre Dame, Sydney Campus

Date: December 18, 2026

Come to Info Day to find out everything you need to know to start uni next year, receive personalised advice and explore your study options.

You'll also be able to tour our unique campus, check out our new student hub, attend information sessions and workshops to find out more about the degrees we have on offer, enjoy live



entertainment, tasty treats and much, much more!

[Find out more](#)

UTAS Enrolment Support Session for Future Students, Sydney

Organisation: University of Tasmania

Location: University of Tasmania, Rozelle Campus

Date: December 18, 2026

After you have been [offered a place](#) to study with us, Enrolment Support Session is here to support your next step.

Get help choosing your course, finalising your enrolment, and understanding what uni life is all about. Our friendly staff will be available to answer questions and guide you through the process so you can start your journey with confidence.

[Find out more](#)

Scholarships

Propel Australian Submarine Scholarship Program

Organisation: Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering (ATSE)

Location: Australia

Value: See details

Open Date: September 2, 2026

Close Date: October 2, 2026

[Find out more](#)

AFTRS Onbass Giant Steps Scholarship

Organisation: Australian Film Television and Radio School

Location: Australia, New Zealand

Value: \$30,000 AUD

Open Date: June 29, 2026

Close Date: October 21, 2026

[Find out more](#)

AMSI High School Scholarships for Female Year 10 Students Intending to Study Specialist Maths in NSW or TAS

Organisation: Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute

Location: New South Wales, Tasmania

Value: AU\$3,000 per year

Open Date: August 20, 2026

Close Date: October 23, 2026

[Find out more](#)

UON Glen Turner Scholarship

Organisation: University of Newcastle

Location: Australia

Value: \$40,000 AUD

Open Date: August 3, 2026

Close Date: March 3, 2027

[Find out more](#)



UNSW Indigenous General Merit Undergraduate Scholarships

Organisation: University of New South Wales

Location: New South Wales

Value: \$5,000 - \$35,000 per year

Open Date: July 1, 2026

Close Date: December 11, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Competitions

The Diamond Challenge for young entrepreneurs around the world

Organisation: The Diamond Challenge

Location: All

Value: Up to \$12,000 USD

Close Date: January 14, 2027

[Find out more](#)

MiNDFOOD Poetry Competition

Organisation: MiNDFOOD

Location: Australia, New Zealand

Value: \$1,000 AUD

Close Date: October 15, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Write the World: Short Story Competition 2026 for ages 13-19

Organisation: Write the World

Location: All

Value: See details

Close Date: September 28, 2026

[Find out more](#)

2026 Threatened Species Bake Off

Organisation: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Location: Australia

Value: See details

Close Date: September 15, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Roly Sussex Short Story Competition 2026

Organisation: English Speaking Union Queensland Branch

Location: Australia

Value: AU\$1,000 for Secondary School Division

Close Date: September 18, 2026

[Find out more](#)

Booklinks Short Story Writing Competition for Children in Years 4 – 6

Organisation: Book Links Qld Inc

Location: Australia



Value: AU\$100

Close Date: No closing date

[Find out more](#)

Embracing Our Differences International Art Exhibition

Organisation: Embracing Our Differences

Location: All

Value: US\$2,000

Close Date: July 1, 2027

[Find out more](#)

Experiences

U-Explore Virtual Work Experience Programme in Games, Animation and VFX

Organisation: U-Explore Ltd

Location: All

[Find out more](#)

JBS Pork Australia Work Experience

Organisation: JBS Pork Australia

Location: New South Wales, Victoria

[Find out more](#)

Weekly Posts

SKILLS FOR WORK

How to read a job ad properly

A job ad relies on a fairly narrow set of recurring language, even though every ad looks different on the surface. Some of it signals exactly how strict a requirement really is, some of it is shorthand that reveals more about a role than it states outright, and a specific pattern of it is worth treating as a warning sign. Reading a job ad well means knowing which is which.

A job ad also lists the employment type, casual, part-time, apprenticeship, and so on, next to the title, and each comes with a different set of entitlements attached. That's covered in more detail in our guides on [casual, part-time, and full-time work](#) and [apprenticeships vs traineeships](#).

Requirement and experience language

Requirements sections rely on a small set of recurring words to signal how strict each point actually is. Reading them accurately is the difference between ruling yourself out of a role you could get, and applying to one you're genuinely not eligible for yet.

Essential / required / must have

These are non-negotiable, usually tied to a qualification, a licence, or a minimum amount of experience genuinely needed to do the job. Missing one of these, especially a qualification or licence, usually means the role isn't realistically available to you yet.

Desirable / preferred / highly regarded

These would strengthen an application without being necessary. Most people who get shortlisted for a role don't tick every box in this category, since the list often reads more like a description of the



ideal candidate than a strict checklist.

No experience necessary

This means the employer isn't expecting any prior training or work history in the area, and is planning to provide training once you start.

Entry-level

This describes the seniority of the role within the organisation, not a guarantee about how much experience is expected. It's common for an "entry-level" ad to still list one to three years of experience as preferred, since the term is often used to place the role on a career ladder rather than to describe who's eligible to apply.

Minimum X years' experience

A specific number like this is usually a genuine cutoff, unlike softer phrasing such as "some experience," which leaves more room.

Willing to train the right candidate

This signals that fit and attitude matter more than direct experience for this particular ad, and that a strong application without much relevant history is still worth submitting.

Role and workplace culture phrases

Beyond the formal requirements, the role description and company blurb lean on a fairly consistent set of phrases to describe day-to-day work. Knowing what they tend to signal helps set realistic expectations before applying.

Self-starter

Usually signals a role with less structured supervision or training than average, where you're expected to work things out independently once you're up to speed.

Fast-paced environment

Usually signals a high workload with unpredictable demands, rather than a steady, well-planned schedule.

Flexible availability / flexible hours

Often means the roster changes week to week rather than following a fixed pattern, which matters if study or another commitment needs a predictable schedule around it.

Team player

Signals that the employer values someone who cooperates smoothly with existing staff, over someone with a strong, independent working style that might clash with the group.

Wear many hats / other duties as assigned

Common in smaller workplaces, and usually means the role includes tasks outside the original job description as they come up, rather than a narrowly defined set of duties.

Hit the ground running

Signals that minimal onboarding or training is planned, and that a new person is expected to start contributing quickly.



Competitive salary

A deliberately vague phrase used to avoid narrowing the applicant pool with a specific number. It doesn't guarantee the pay is higher than similar roles elsewhere, and it's a detail worth confirming directly before going too far into the process.

Immediate start

Usually reflects urgency, the role has been vacant for a while, or demand for the position is high, rather than saying anything about the quality of the role itself. On its own it isn't a strong signal either way, though it's something to watch for alongside other issues like vague duties or unusually high pay.

Language that signals a scam

A different category of language points to something more serious: the ad might not be for a real job at all. These are specific, well-documented patterns worth treating as warning signs, not just a badly written ad.

Watch for the following:

- Unsolicited contact through text or messaging apps, rather than a reply to an application you actually submitted
- Pay that's unusually high for very little effort or experience
- A hiring decision made almost immediately, with no real interview or discussion of your experience
- A request to pay a "recruitment fee," buy training materials, or top up an account before you can start
- A request for sensitive personal details, like a Medicare card, driver's licence, or banking details, early in the process, before any formal offer
- A job that involves transferring money, or receiving and forwarding packages, on someone else's behalf

A single item on its own is worth pausing over. More than one is a strong sign to stop the conversation and report it, rather than continuing to engage.

Reading a job ad with this in mind

None of these terms are complicated once they're familiar, and a single job ad usually only uses a handful of them at once. Reading one with this vocabulary in mind takes the same time as reading it without, but leaves you with a clearer picture of what's on offer, and whether it's a role you can realistically get and trust.

Our [Skills for Work section](#) has more on applications, interviews, and getting ready for your first job.

STUDY

Tips for neurodiverse students to thrive at school

We're all unique and every brain works in its own way. Some students focus best with music playing. Others need total silence. Some think in pictures, and some think in lists. If you're neurodivergent, meaning your brain works differently to what's considered "typical" (this can include ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia and more), high school might feel like it wasn't built with you in mind. But that doesn't mean you can't thrive there. It just means finding the right tools, the right people, and the right approach for you.

Focus on your strengths

Your brain isn't a problem to fix, it's easy to focus on the things that could feel harder, like sitting still during a long lesson or reading pages of dense text. But neurodivergent brains come with real



strengths. You might be excellent at spotting patterns, thinking creatively, problem-solving, hyperfocusing on things you love which means you soak up knowledge and become an expert, or noticing details others miss.

Try keeping a simple note on your phone, computer, or even in your diary/journal of all things you're proud of or good at. Add to it whenever something goes well. Over time, it becomes proof that your brain has plenty going for it, even on the tough days.

Where to find support at school and beyond

You don't have to figure everything out alone. Many schools will have learning support staff, counsellors, or wellbeing coordinators who can help you get things like a specialised learning plan, extra exam time, a quiet space to work, or adjusted assignments. Ask your school what's available and see how you can access anything you'll need to help you succeed. If you're not sure who to speak to, a parent, carer or teacher you trust can help you find out and come along to support you. Outside of school, there are plenty of organisations that specialise in supporting neurodivergent young people. Here are a few examples:

In Australia:

- [Amaze](#) who provide information and support for autistic people and their families
- [ADHD Australia](#) specialise in resources and advocacy for people with ADHD
- [AUSPELD](#) offer support for students, families, and educators working with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia

These organisations won't be able to do your homework for you, but they can point you towards useful resources, local support groups, and people who understand exactly what you're going through.

Study tips that work with your brain, not against it

Standard study advice doesn't always work for everyone, and that's fine. Instead of forcing yourself into using a method that isn't working, try experimenting until you find what fits.

If sitting still is hard, try studying while standing, walking, or using a fidget tool. If long blocks of reading feel overwhelming, break your work into short chunks with clear breaks in between. Timers can help here, so you know a break is coming and it's easier to focus in the meantime. Find [apps and tools that'll help you to accomplish tasks or stay on track](#).

Visual tools, like colour-coded notes, mind maps or checklists, can also make information easier to hold onto. [There's no single "right" way to study](#). There's only the way that works for you, and you're allowed to keep adjusting it.

Money and financial support

Extra support sometimes comes with extra costs, whether that's tutoring, assistive technology, or specialist assessments. You're not expected to cover this alone.

Talk to your school first, as many have funding set aside for learning support and equipment. Some assessments and services also offer financial help for families who need it, so it's always worth asking rather than assuming it isn't available. Scholarships can be another useful option as you get closer to finishing school, particularly if you're planning further study or training.

There are plenty of organisations and government assistance schemes to look into as well wherever you might be. Find some [examples for Australia here](#) and start researching in [New Zealand here](#).

Building connections and finding your people

Feeling understood in high school can matter just as much as academic support. Look for clubs, interest groups or online communities where you can connect with people who share your interests



or your experience of being neurodivergent. This might be a school club, a gaming group, an art class, or an online forum for neurodivergent teens. You don't need a huge friend group to feel supported. Even one or two people who get you could make school feel like a completely different place.

Ready to keep building your future?

Thriving at school looks different for everyone, and there's no single path that works for all neurodivergent students. What matters is understanding your strengths, asking for support when you need it, and surrounding yourself with people who understand and appreciate you. If you'd like to explore more resources and support options, visit our [study tips](#) page to start exploring ways to help you succeed.

JOB SPOTLIGHTS

How to become a Power Systems Engineer

Power systems engineers design and manage the electrical networks that deliver energy to homes, businesses, and the infrastructure that modern life depends on. They work across the full lifecycle of

electrical systems, from initial network design through to fault analysis, performance monitoring, and long-term asset management.

If you're drawn to technical problem solving at a large scale and want to work on the systems that hold up everything else, this career sits at the heart of modern infrastructure.

What skills do I need as a Power Systems Engineer?

- Systems thinking
- Analytical & methodical
- Technical problem solver
- Strong mathematical ability
- Clear communicator
- Attention to detail
- Collaborative mindset
- Comfortable with complexity

What do Power Systems Engineers do?

Before a new network element goes live, you've already spent considerable time modelling it. You'll use specialist software to design electrical systems, simulate how they'll perform under different conditions, and identify potential failure points before they become real problems. This planning work is detailed and technical, drawing on your understanding of how electricity behaves across transmission and distribution networks, and how changes in one part of a system ripple through to others.

Day to day, you'll analyse network performance, investigate faults, and prepare technical reports that inform decisions about how systems are maintained, upgraded, or expanded. You'll work alongside other engineers, planners, and asset managers, translating complex technical findings into recommendations that non-specialists can act on. When something goes wrong in a network, you're one of the people called on to diagnose the cause and identify a solution, often under time pressure. Periodically you'll work on larger projects involving network upgrades or the integration of new energy sources, including renewables, into existing infrastructure. These projects require you to coordinate with multiple stakeholders and think carefully about how changes affect the broader system. Some Power Systems Engineers develop areas of specialisation in particular network types, asset classes, or emerging technologies. Others move across sectors, applying their skills to different



kinds of infrastructure over the course of their career.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?

Power Systems Engineers work for energy network operators, utility companies, engineering consultancies, and government infrastructure agencies. Some are employed directly by the organisations that own and operate electrical networks, while others work in consultancy roles across multiple clients and project types. The role exists across both private and public sectors, with opportunities in urban centres and regional areas where network infrastructure requires ongoing management and investment.

Work is primarily office-based, with some site visits for inspections, fault investigations, or project oversight. Hours are above average, reflecting the project-driven nature of the work and the technical demands of the role. Flexibility is moderate, with some variation depending on whether you're employed in-house or in a consultancy setting. The work is rarely physically demanding, but it can involve sustained concentration and the occasional requirement to respond to network issues outside standard hours.

Salaries are above average, reflecting the technical expertise and engineering qualifications the role requires. The energy sector is undergoing significant investment and transformation, which is driving strong demand for skilled engineers across network design, asset management, and infrastructure

planning. The outlook for the field is positive, with ongoing work in network maintenance, expansion, and modernisation providing a stable base of employment.

How to become a Power Systems Engineer

- **Complete an engineering degree:** A bachelor's degree in electrical engineering or a closely related field is the standard entry point. This gives you the technical foundation in power systems, circuit analysis, and network design that the role requires. Some graduates go on to complete honours or postgraduate study to deepen their expertise.
- **Enter through a graduate program or related role:** Many Power Systems Engineers begin their careers through graduate programs offered by network operators, utilities, or engineering consultancies. Others enter from related engineering disciplines, bringing transferable technical skills and building power systems knowledge on the job. Both are legitimate starting points.
- **Build practical technical skills:** Early in your career you'll develop hands-on experience in network modelling, fault analysis, and technical reporting. Seek out projects that expose you to different parts of the network, from generation and transmission through to distribution, to build a broad understanding of how systems connect.
- **Develop your professional standing:** Engineers who pursue registration or accreditation through their professional body demonstrate a commitment to standards and ongoing development that employers value. This is worth pursuing as your experience grows, and opens doors to more senior and project leadership roles over time.

From here, you could move into senior engineering roles leading complex network projects, take on project management responsibilities across major infrastructure programs, move into energy consulting, or develop expertise in emerging areas such as grid modernisation and energy storage systems.

What can I do right now?

If you're in high school and interested in working as a Power Systems Engineer, here are some practical steps:

- Focus on maths and physics, as these are the foundation of electrical engineering study and the concepts you'll use throughout your career in network design and analysis



-
- Look for work experience with engineering consultancies, energy companies, or network operators to get a practical sense of how electrical infrastructure is designed and managed
- Explore engineering pathways at university open days, paying particular attention to electrical engineering programs that include power systems or energy networks as a focus area

Find out more about alternative careers on [our Job Spotlights page](#).

STUDY

How does grade moderation work in every Australian state?

Two students studying the same subject, at two different schools, can end up being marked very differently depending on how strictly or generously their teacher grades. One teacher might rarely give full marks, while another gives them out more freely for similar quality work. If those marks were used exactly as they were given, students could be advantaged or disadvantaged simply based on which school they attend. Grade moderation is the process schools and state education authorities use to stop that from happening.

Moderation in the junior years

In Years 8 to 10, moderation usually happens inside the school rather than through a state authority.

If a subject has several classes running at once, each with a different teacher, the school needs some way of making sure all those teachers are marking to the same standard.

This typically happens through:

- Teachers marking a shared set of sample responses together before returning results
- Faculty or subject-area meetings where marking is compared and discussed
- Common rubrics or marking guides used across all classes for the same task
- A second teacher checking a sample of marked work

It's a less formal process than what happens in the senior years, and you won't usually see or hear about it directly. But it's happening in the background of most common assessment tasks, and it's part of why a school can report a consistent result across multiple classes studying the same subject.

Moderation in the senior years

Once you reach Years 11 and 12, your results start counting toward a formal certificate, and in most cases, an ATAR. At this point, moderation becomes an official process run by a state or territory authority rather than something managed only within the school.

Across the country, this generally happens in one of two ways. Some states use statistical moderation, where a school's assessment marks are mathematically adjusted based on how that school's students perform in an external exam. Others use a standards-based review, where samples of marked student work are checked by external assessors against a fixed set of criteria, without any statistical adjustment. A few states use a mix of both.

The exact process depends on where you go to school, so here's how it works state by state. Note: information is accurate as of September 2026 - but states regularly change these processes so check directly if you want the specifics

New South Wales

In New South Wales, the Higher School Certificate (HSC) mark for most courses is made up of two parts: 50% school assessment and 50% exam. The [NSW Education Standards Authority moderates](#) the school assessment component using statistical moderation.

Each school's group of assessment marks for a course is adjusted so that its overall distribution lines up with how that same group of students performed in the HSC exam, using three anchor points



from the exam results to guide the adjustment. Importantly, this doesn't change a student's rank within their own school. If a student earned the highest school assessment mark in their course, they'll still hold that position after moderation, even if the actual number changes.

Why moderation matters for you

Moderation exists so your result reflects a standard that applies beyond your own classroom, not just your own teacher's marking style. It's checked either against how your school group performed in an external exam, or against a fixed set of criteria reviewed by assessors outside your school.

You don't need to do anything differently because of moderation. The best way to get a result that reflects your ability is the same as always: understand what the assessment task is asking for, follow the marking criteria your teacher gives you, and ask your teacher directly if you're ever unsure how a task will be marked. If you want to understand exactly how your state's process affects your results, your school's senior years coordinator can talk you through it in more detail.

Moderation is one part of how your senior results come together. If you want to understand what happens after that, including how those results turn into your ATAR, [we've broken that down here](#).

JOBS & CAREERS

The 7 hidden jobs that keep global trade moving

More than 80% of the world's traded goods travel by ship, according to the UN trade body [UNCTAD](#),

everything from clothing to electronics to the fuel that powers a family car. Getting that volume moving relies on people working across booking, customs, ports, ships, and coordination, each responsible for a specific piece of a much longer journey.

Freight Forwarder

A Freight Forwarder doesn't own ships or planes. They act as the go-between, booking cargo space with carriers on behalf of an exporter or importer, and deciding between sea and air freight depending on cost, weight, and how urgently the goods are needed. Part of the job is managing risk: arranging cargo insurance, and preparing the export documentation that customs will later check. Some Freight Forwarders enter through a logistics or business-focused VET certificate or diploma, while others begin in an administrative or operations role within a freight company and learn the process on the job.

Customs Broker

A Customs Broker prepares and lodges the documentation needed for a shipment to legally enter or exit Australia. In practice, this means checking that goods match their declared value and classification, working out the duties and taxes owed, and identifying anything that needs a special permit, certain foods, plants, or chemicals, before it's allowed across the border.

It's a licensed profession: completing an accredited course in customs broking, then demonstrating enough industry experience to apply for a licence. Because trade rules differ depending on which countries are involved, brokers also need to keep learning throughout their career rather than treating the licence as a one-off qualification.

Stevedore

A Stevedore loads and unloads cargo at the dock, using cranes, forklifts, and other specialised equipment, and secures it for onward transport once it's off the ship. A modern container ship can carry several thousand containers, and loading them in the wrong sequence can affect how the ship sits in the water.

This is generally an entry-level pathway into the maritime and logistics industry, with training



provided on the job alongside safety certifications rather than a prior qualification. Some Stevedores move into supervisory or port operations roles over time.

Ship's Officer

Ship's Officers (sometimes called Deck Officers) navigate the ship and supervise the deck crew, standing rotating watches where they hold sole responsibility for the ship's safety for hours at a stretch. Alongside them, Marine Engineers manage the machinery that keeps the vessel running, from the main engines to the electrical systems, and have to diagnose and fix problems independently, since there's no calling for outside help mid-ocean.

Both roles require a maritime-specific qualification, regulated nationally, usually starting at certificate or diploma level and building toward more senior roles like Ship's Master through further study and sea time.

Supply Chain Manager

A Supply Chain or Logistics Manager oversees the whole journey: tracking where goods are, anticipating delays, and making sure everything stays on schedule from factory to warehouse. A related role, Supply Chain Analyst, supports this work from a different angle, using data and reporting tools to track measures like on-time delivery rates and stock levels, and identifying where a supply chain is losing time or money.

According to the [Department of Employment and Workplace Relations](#), Australia's supply chain and logistics sector employs more than half a million people across 18 different categories of jobs. Most people enter through a business, logistics, or supply chain-focused course at diploma or bachelor level, though the analyst side increasingly values data and systems skills too.

Ship Broker

A Ship Broker works on the commercial side of bulk shipping, matching vessel owners with cargo owners or traders and negotiating charter rates and contracts for a specific voyage or cargo, often earning a commission on each completed deal. It's a market-facing, deal-making role built on knowledge of vessel types and shipping markets, closer to broking in finance or property than to the operational roles above.

Some enter through a maritime business or logistics-focused degree, others move across from freight forwarding or shipping operations once they've built up industry contacts.

Event Logistics Coordinator

An Event Logistics Coordinator applies a similar skill set to freight and supply chain roles, booking freight, managing tight schedules, and coordinating between suppliers and venues, to a different kind of cargo entirely: equipment and staging for concerts, sporting fixtures, and expos. A shipment for a warehouse can usually absorb a short delay; a stage that isn't ready before doors open cannot. This role is often entered through an event management or logistics-focused course, though it's also common for people to move into it from operational roles within the events industry itself.

If you want to find out how different careers could suit you, check out our [Jobs & Careers](#) hub.

GAP YEARS, UNIVERSITY

Will a gap year affect your future studies

If you're thinking about a gap year, the worry that usually comes up first is whether it'll put you behind, behind your friends, behind on your degree, behind on your career. A national analysis of Australian students gives a clear answer to that specific worry: six-year university completion rates are almost identical whether you take a gap year or go straight into a degree, 70% for gap year takers compared with 69% for those who enrolled straight away, a gap small enough to fall within



the study's margin of error.

What the research shows

That number comes from a [Department of Education](#) analysis linking higher education, tax, and social security records for students who left school between 2009 and 2016. It's the largest and most

detailed look at this question in Australia to date, and it controlled for the factors that usually get blamed when a gap year is assumed to slow someone down, including entrance scores, location, and financial background.

Who takes a gap year, and why it doesn't hold them back

Around one in seven school leavers took a gap year in the years studied, though that share has been falling, from 17% in 2009 to 11% in 2016. It also varies a lot by state: close to one in three school leavers in the Northern Territory took a gap year, compared with around one in seven in New South Wales.

Compared with students who go straight to university, gap year takers are more likely to:

- Come from a regional or remote area
- Have a somewhat lower tertiary entrance score on average
- Work during their gap year, and keep working while they study
- Receive [government income support](#) such as Youth Allowance in their first year of study

On paper, these are exactly the kind of factors that usually predict a harder run through a degree:

distance from campus, financial pressure, a lower entrance score. Instead, gap year takers finish at close to the same rate as everyone else.

Part of the explanation is likely how that time is spent. [Earlier national research](#) on gap year students found their most common activities were paid work, at around 40%, and study or training, at around 33%, with only a small share reporting travel as their main focus. A gap year spent working gives students time to save before study starts, which can ease financial pressure once they're enrolled, and time to settle on what they actually want to study, which may lower the chances of starting a course that doesn't suit them and having to change direction partway through.

Does a gap year affect scholarships or entry pathways

This is where things get more specific to each university, so it's worth checking early rather than assuming. Adjustment factors, sometimes still called bonus points, are generally based on your Year 12 results and personal circumstances rather than when you start your degree, so in most cases they still apply if you take a gap year. Exactly which factors apply, and how many points they're worth, varies by university and by course, and the rules can change from year to year.

Scholarships tend to be stricter. Many require you to apply in the same year you complete Year 12, and can't be deferred alongside a university offer. Some also have conditions around what you do during your gap year, so starting university study early, for example, could affect your eligibility for one designed for school leavers.

If you're still deciding

This data doesn't tell you whether a gap year is right for you, and it isn't trying to. What it does show is that taking one won't put you at an academic disadvantage once you get to university. If you're still weighing it up, it's worth:

- Talking to your school's careers advisor about how a gap year could fit your specific goals
- Checking whether your course of choice allows you to defer your offer
- Getting clear on what you want out of the year, work, study, or just space to think, before you commit to it



Our [Gap Years hub](#) has more on what a gap year could look like and how to plan one.

APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

How apprenticeships & traineeships measure your progress

Which model your training follows isn't something you choose. It comes built into the qualification, whether that's time-based progression or competency-based progression, and understanding the

difference helps you know what your training will involve day to day.

What is time-based progression?

Time-based progression ties your advancement to a fixed period, rather than to what you can do.

You move to the next stage of training once a set number of weeks, months, or years have passed.

Everyone enrolled moves through the same content on the same timeline, giving the group a shared, predictable structure, and the course finishes at a set point for everyone.

What is competency-based progression?

Competency-based progression ties your advancement to what you can demonstrate, rather than to how long you've spent studying. Instead of a fixed timeline, you're assessed against a specific set of skills, often called units of competency, and you move forward once an assessor confirms you can perform them to the required standard. If you pick up a skill quickly, you may be able to move on to the next one sooner. If you need more time on something, that time is built into the process.

Why different qualifications use different models

Which model applies to a course is generally decided by what's being taught, not by personal preference. An occupation where skills need to be individually verified before someone works independently, like operating machinery or working with electrical systems, commonly uses competency-based progression. A course covering broad foundational knowledge might use a time-based structure instead, so a whole group works through the same content together and finishes at a shared point.

This is generally set when the qualification is designed, based on the occupation or subject area involved, rather than something decided once you're already enrolled.

How this works in vocational training

Most nationally recognised qualifications, including apprenticeships and traineeships, use competency-based progression. Instead of a fixed timetable, you work through a training plan, agreed between you, your employer (if you're employed while training), and your registered training organisation (RTO). The plan sets out the units of competency you need to complete, and your RTO assesses you against each one, often through a mix of workplace observation, practical tasks, and questioning.

Most apprenticeships and traineeships still have a nominal duration, a rough timeframe the qualification is expected to take, often several years depending on the occupation. This works as a guide rather than a fixed rule. If you demonstrate competency across your training plan earlier than expected, your qualification could be signed off sooner, sometimes with credit given for skills you already had. If you need longer on particular units, the timeline may stretch so you're properly assessed before finishing.

Why it's recognised the same way everywhere

These qualifications are built from training packages, the documents that set out which units of competency make up a qualification, and are aligned with the Australian Qualifications Framework



(AQF). Because of this, a unit of competency you're assessed on means the same thing regardless of which RTO delivered your training or which state you trained in.

In practice, this matters if you move states, change employer partway through, or your RTO stops delivering your course. The competencies you've already been assessed on don't disappear. They transfer with you, because the standard applies nationally, not just at the RTO where you trained.

What this means for your day-to-day training

If your course is time-based, you'll move through content alongside everyone else in your cohort, on

a shared timeline. Assessment is more likely to happen at set points, like the end of a module or semester, and your finishing date is generally fixed from the outset.

If your course is competency-based, assessment happens more regularly, often as soon as you're ready to demonstrate a skill, rather than only at scheduled points. Your finishing date is tied to when your training plan is completed, which can vary between people doing the exact same qualification, depending on how each person's assessment progresses.

Either way, understanding which model applies helps you know what to expect, including how often you'll be assessed and how your finishing date gets set.

Questions worth asking before you commit

Before you commit to a vocational course, apprenticeship, or traineeship, it can help to ask a few questions so you know what you're signing up for:

- Is this qualification structured around a fixed timetable, or around units of competency?
- What's the nominal duration, and is there flexibility to finish sooner or take longer if needed?
- How is competency assessed: through workplace observation, practical tasks, written work, or a combination?
- Can prior skills or experience count toward credit, shortening the time needed?
- Who can I talk to if I need more time on a particular skill before being assessed as competent?

Before you enrol

Finding out which model applies, and what that means for assessment and timing, is worth doing before you commit to a course. It gives you a clearer picture of what your training will look like from week to week.

If you're weighing up an apprenticeship or traineeship, you can find more detail on how they work [here](#).

PATHWAYS

What is esports, and where could it lead?

Chances are you've watched an esports match without even realising it. Maybe it was a friend's older sibling glued to a Fortnite tournament, or a clip of thousands of fans cheering on a League of Legends team in a packed stadium. Esports is competitive video gaming, played at an organised level, with real teams, real coaches, and real prize money up for grabs. It might sound like just a hobby, but it's fast becoming a serious industry offering career opportunities, both on and off the screen.

What exactly is esports?

[Esports](#) covers organised, competitive gaming where individuals or teams face off in popular titles like League of Legends, Valorant, Dota 2, or FIFA. Matches can range from small local competitions



to enormous international tournaments, some of which fill arenas and are broadcast to millions watching online. Unlike casual gaming, esports has structure including things like leagues, sponsors, coaches, and strict rules, much like traditional sport.

How big is the industry, really?

Esports has grown from a niche hobby into a global industry with a projected revenue of US\$5.1bn in 2026. Analysts at [Grand View Research project the global esports market will keep expanding at a growth rate of over 20% a year through to 2033](#), while Statista estimates the worldwide esports audience will grow to [924.9m users by 2030](#). That growth doesn't just include players. It includes broadcasters, sponsors, event organisers, and marketing teams, all working to support the games and the people who play them.

What careers exist in esports?

There are [professional esports players](#) - they're the people who compete in the games and tournaments. They are often part of a sponsored team, with income coming from prize money, salaries, and sponsorships; but the industry needs far more than that to function. Take a look at the diagram below for an idea.

So what are some other careers you might not have considered?

[Coach or team analyst](#). They study gameplay footage, spotting patterns in opponents' strategies, and helping players improve their performance and teamwork. TAFE Queensland offer a [Certificate II in Sports Coaching - Esports](#) if you'd like to get started or get an idea of what's included.

Broadcaster or shoutcaster. Commentating live on matches, much like a sports presenter, they're

the hype-people who help audiences follow the action and understand the strategy behind it.

Event organiser. They plan and run tournaments, from booking venues to managing schedules and coordinating teams.

Content creator or streamer. Building an audience by playing games online, sharing tips, or reviewing new releases on platforms such as Twitch or YouTube.

Marketing and sponsorship specialist. Connecting brands with esports audiences, negotiating sponsorship deals, and running promotional campaigns.

Game designer or developer. Working behind the scenes to build the games and storylines that are essential for esports, from level design to balancing gameplay and all the bits in between.

Read more about possible career pathways in Esports [here](#).

Building experience and finding your pathway

As we've established there are a lot more roles than just professional players to work in esports. Many roles value organisation, communication, and teamwork just as much as gaming skill and technological abilities.

Competitions are a natural starting point. Sign up for school or community gaming tournaments, or [look out for local or online amateur leagues](#). Gain experience, test your skills and start building a track record. Even if you don't win, taking part is resume worthy, showing initiative and gives you something to talk about in future applications.

Start gaining valuable work experience, that doesn't mean joining a professional team straight away. Volunteer to help to run a school gaming club, volunteer at a local gaming event, or assisting with the technical side of a livestream are all great ways to build relevant skills. Reach out to local esports organisations or gaming cafes and ask if they need help with events; many are happy to take on enthusiastic volunteers.

Online experience could be helpful too. You could start YouTube channel, writing about games for a blog, or moderate a gaming community on Discord. These are all examples that demonstrate your commitment and will help you grow practical skills in communication, editing, or community



management.

Networking is an often underestimated skill. By joining online communities, attending local gaming meet-ups, and connecting with players or organisers on social media you could meet people and open doors that formal applications sometimes can't.

Courses and qualifications worth considering

If you'd like some formal training behind you, there are several options worth researching. Some universities now offer [specific esports degrees or business degrees with an esports or games industry focus](#), covering areas like event management, marketing, and games business strategy. If a full degree feels like a big commitment, short courses and microcredentials in game design, digital marketing, or streaming and video production could be a quick way to build relevant skills. For those more interested in the technical side of esports, [a certificate or diploma in game development](#), computer science, or IT can open the door to design and development roles within the industry. Whichever path appeals to you, it's worth researching a few providers and comparing what each course actually covers before committing.

Ready to explore your next move?

Esports is proof that a passion for gaming can lead somewhere real, whether that's on stage, behind a camera, or behind the scenes making it all happen. The best way to find your fit is to start small - join a competition, offer to help at an event, or simply start creating.

For more ideas on turning your interests into a career, check out our [Jobs & Careers page](#) for more inspiration and practical next steps.

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Web: studyworkgrow.com

Email: schools@studyworkgrow.com

Phone: +61 7 4039 3862

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